

of the first Alabama physicians to become certified to start an office-based opioid treatment center. In 2008 he helped develop an approved prescribing course sponsored by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. Since that time, he has presented the course to over 15,000 Alabama prescribers and was awarded the Administrators in Medicine National Award for Excellence for the course in 2015.

Along with his accomplishments in the medical field, Dr. Harrison in an instrument-rated pilot, a certified scuba diver, photographer, and has served his church as a talented pianist for over 25 years.

Dr. Boyde J. Harrison is a prime example of the steadfast, hardworking people that I am proud to represent in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District. I ask that you join me in congratulating him on completing 40 years of dedication and service not only to my hometown of Haleyville, but to Northwest Alabama and the great State of Alabama.

HONORING DR. KEITH WEAVER

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Keith Weaver ahead of his retirement this month.

Dr. Weaver's 37 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to the conservation and management of the National Wildlife Refuge System played a critical role in protecting important natural resources in Arkansas and throughout the nation. Wildlife refuges are an essential piece to both the economy and culture of the Natural State, and we owe many thanks to Dr. Weaver for his leadership in conservation.

His career officially began at Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Louisiana as a forestry technician. There he oversaw logging contracts, participated in reforestation activities, dealt with nuisance beaver control, and later became the refuge's first Wildlife Biologist where he conducted important research on the area's black bears. He served outside of the Southeast in refuge leadership positions at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland's Eastern Shore and Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Vermont. Dr. Weaver took his current position as the project leader at the Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex in 2007. He is responsible for managing six refuges at Bald Knob, Big Lake, Cache River, Holla Bend, Logan Cave, and Wapanocca, Arkansas—five of which are primarily managed for wintering waterfowl.

Throughout his career, he invested in future conservation leaders and earned a reputation of the highest character, integrity, and honesty. He engaged with national, regional, and local stakeholders and was a dependable resource for my staff and I, always ready to help serve Arkansans.

Dr. Weaver's dedication and leadership has not gone unnoticed, and in September 2021, he was awarded the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honorary recognition an employee can receive within DOI. This award is reserved for out-

standing individuals who make significant contributions to science or to the public service.

Both the state of Arkansas and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are losing an exceptional public servant. I thank Dr. Weaver for his decades of commitment to keeping the Natural State a vibrant, safe, and beautiful place to call home.

# RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan achieved its independence from the former Soviet Union and became a self-governing nation-state on December 16, 1991. Guided by its first President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan quickly renounced nuclear weapons, and worked with the United States to close the former Soviet nuclear test facility at Semipalatinsk and secure the nuclear materials stored there. These bold gestures by President Nazarbayev and his government at a time of significant instability in the region set a precedent on nuclear safety and nonproliferation efforts for Kazakhstan in the international community.

After independence, Kazakhstan quickly turned away from Soviet-inspired central economic planning and built a stable market economy. As early as 1992, Kazakhstan joined international arbitration bodies and actively invited foreign investment in the country. Today Kazakhstan's economic output is one of the most robust in Central Asia, and American companies are some of the largest investors in Kazakhstan. In 2015, after twenty years of negotiations, Kazakhstan acceded to membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), further broadening its relationship with the global economic community.

In 2019, the Kazakh people elected President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev who has pledged more important economic and political reforms. He has called his vision of government, "the listening state," and has promised to hear and respond to Kazakh citizens, to act consistently with international social, labor, and human rights standards, and to encourage participation in the political life of the country. I applaud these calls for reforms and hope that the government of Kazakhstan will implement them which will ultimately benefit the country and cement its place as a reliable friend of the United States.

One of the requirements of the WTO is that members extend permanent normal trade relations to each other. Unfortunately, the U.S. has yet to grant permanent normal trade relations to Kazakhstan, citing the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 which restricts trade relations with non-market economies that limit the right of citizens to emigrate. This measure was aimed at the Soviet Union and its then-allies in response to their punitive restrictions on Jewish émigrés. Joined by my friends, Ms. WALORSKI, Ms. MURPHY, and Mr. CHABOT, I introduced H.R. 5544 in October to grant permanent normal trade relations to Kazakhstan. It is long past

time for the U.S. to take this step. The Soviet Union no longer exists, and its successor, the Russian Federation, was granted permanent normal trade relations in 2012. Meanwhile, since independence, Kazakhstan has granted all of its citizens the freedom to emigrate and adopted a stable market economy. The conditions that led to enactment of Jackson-Vanik no longer exist, and the reasons for its restrictions on trade relations have long since ceased to apply to Kazakhstan. Permanent normal trade relations will benefit Kazakhstan and will also benefit the many U.S. companies investing in and doing business in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan also has been a crucial leader and partner to the U.S. on counterterrorism efforts, providing support and assistance to the U.S. during its engagement in Afghanistan. The country has an abundance of natural resources, including rare earth and other critical minerals that will play a significant role in the global shift away from fossil fuels. Kazakhstan has a young and educated workforce and actively promotes universal education, including English language skills, so its citizens can fully participate in the global economy. For these reasons, I believe Kazakhstan deserves our sustained interest, friendship, and attention as it continues to evolve.

Madam Speaker, I recently assumed the role of co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Caucus because I believe our relationship with Kazakhstan is very important to the economic and national security of the United States. We clearly benefit from our friendship with this vibrant and growing nation located in such a strategic part of the world. I invite all my House colleagues to consider joining the Caucus and supporting the granting of permanent normal trade relations to Kazakhstan.

Congratulations to the Kazakh people on 30 years of independence, progress, and growth.

# RECOGNIZING THE JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY JAGUARS AS MHSAA 3A STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Jefferson Davis County Jaguars and Coach Lance Mancuso on their MHSAA 3A State Championship victory. This is Coach Mancuso's ninth straight state championship, an unprecedented accomplishment. I commend Coach Mancuso for his record-setting success at the helm of the Jaguars football team and wish him and his team continued success in the future.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the young men who worked tirelessly for the championship trophy. Every early morning, every extra rep, and every sacrifice they made to better themselves and their team has resulted in the top prize.

In the coming days, as the thrill of victory begins to fade, I would encourage those young men to reflect deeply on the investment they made to realize this championship. They will never forget the feeling of their great accomplishment; but in the future, as they reminisce on this victory, I would challenge them to remember the qualities that made them champions.